

# SANTA CLARITA WATERSHED RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

*A PUBLIC ENTITY OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA EXERCISING JOINT POWERS OF THE CITY OF SANTA  
CLARITA AND THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE  
SECTION 6500 ET SEQ.*

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board

**FROM:**  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP/Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

**DATE:** June 5, 2008

**SUBJECT:** **Agenda Item IX: Consideration of resolution amending Resolution No. 06-5 to include APNs 3210-002-012, 3210-003-007, 008 and 009, Agua Dulce.**

**Staff Recommendation:** That the Governing Board adopt the resolution amending Resolution No. 06-5 to include APNs 3210-002-012, 3210-003-007, 008 and 009, Agua Dulce.

**Background:** At its December 7, 2006 meeting, the Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority (SCWRCA) authorized Resolution No. 06-5, approving the use of mitigation funds to acquire APNs 3210-001-001, 3210-001-002, 3210-001-003, 3210-002-004, 3210-002-005, 3210-004-006, 3210-004-007, 3210-004-005, 3212-004-014, 3212-004-016, 3212-004-017, 3212-014-031, and 3212-004-010 in the Agua Dulce Canyon watershed and granting the use of said funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) to acquire said parcels.

The intersection of Agua Dulce Canyon Road and State Route (SR) 14 is currently the most threatened choke point in the primary habitat linkage across Soledad Canyon and SR 14 between the two parts of the Angeles National Forest. All of the subject parcels at this intersection are addressed in a Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP) that identifies over a hundred parcels necessary to maintain a viable inter-mountain range habitat linkage. The CAPP contains extensive biological and land use information. In addition, the South Coast Wildlands Project prepared a Missing Linkages report for this San Gabriel to Castaic linkage. That report provides further scientific background to guide land acquisition in the CAPP.

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On May 23, 2008 the MRCA submitted a grant application to the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) for funding to acquire APNs 3210-002-012, 3210-003-007, 008 and 009. These parcels are also located at the intersection of Agua Dulce Canyon Road at SR 14, the same watershed which Resolution No. 06-5 was approved. In the RMC application, the MRCA stated in its Cost Estimate that matching funds would be provided from SCWRCA from approved Resolution No. 06-5.

To be able to provide the matching funds if the grant is approved, adoption of this action is critical. Although the subject parcels are not the absolute most essential parcels for the wildlife corridor they are in the top tier and are the only parcels with willing sellers at the appraised value.